

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 L-02 H-01 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SCA-01 VO-03 PPT-01

SCS-03 MMS-01 /067 W  
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P R 291558Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5024

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17999

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN UR US

SUBJECT: CSCE - HUMAN CONTACTS-MARRIAGE TEXT

REF: (A) GENEVA 7198, (B) MOSCOW 13208

1. WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS LATE IN THE GAME--AND THAT FACTORS BEYOND THIS PARTICULAR TEXT MUST OBVIOUSLY BE WEIGHED--BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE MARRIAGE TEXT CITED REFTEL MAY MISS IMPORTANT THRUST OF SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE IN THIS AREA. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, SOVIETS ROUTINELY DO AS MUCH TO THWART MIXED SOVIET-FOREIGN MARRIAGES BEFORE THEY TAKE PLACE, AS THEY DO TO FRUSTRATE COUPLES' DESIRE TO LEAVE USSR AFTER MARRIAGE.

2. OFFICIAL SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE IN MARRIAGE AREA RUNS GAMUT FROM "NORMAL" BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES ENDEMIC TO SOVIET SYSTEM TO ISSUANCE OF ARMY MOBILIZATION ORDER TO WOULD-BE GROOM. MARRIAGE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS LENGTHY, CUMBERSOME, AND OFTEN-TIMES CONFUSING. REGISTRATION INVOLVES SUBMISSION OF MANY DOCUMENTS INCLUDING FULL MEDICAL RECORDS AND UBIQUITOUS CHARACTER STATEMENT (KHARAKTERISTIKA) FROM SOVIET PARTY'S PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. PROSPECTIVE SOVIET SPOUSE INVOLVED EVEN  
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TANGENTIALLY IN WORK WITH SECURITY CONNOTATION HAS

MUCH DIFFICULTY OBTAINING CHARACTER REFERENCE.  
FAMILIAR SOVIET BUREAUCRATIC PATERNALISM AND INGRAINED  
PREJUDICES OF LOCAL REGISTRY OFFICIALS ALSO SERVE  
TO FRUSTRATE US-SOVIET MARRIAGES.

3. BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES INVOLVED IN MARRIAGE PROCESS  
ARE SOMETIMES OVERSHADOWED BY DELIBERATE OFFICIAL  
ACTIONS DESIGNED TO THWART MARRIAGE. PROSPECTIVE  
SPOUSES ARE SOMETIMES INTIMIDATED BY SOVIET SECURITY  
ORGANS. SOVIET APPLICANTS ARE OFTEN THREATENED WITH LOSS  
OF THEIR JOBS OR QUICK INDUCTION INTO ARMY IN RETALIATION  
FOR MARRIAGE ATTEMPT. IN ONE RECENT CASE (REF. B)  
FRADULENT CHARGE OF MENTAL ILLNESS WAS BROUGHT AGAINST  
SOVIET SPOUSE IN FORM OF ALLEGED ANONYMOUS LETTER TO  
REGISTRY OFFICE. FAMILIES OF PROSPECTIVE SPOUSES  
ARE LIKEWISE NOT IMMUNE FROM OFFICIALLY INSPIRED  
INTIMIDATION.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES COMBINATION OF BUREAUCRATIC  
OBFUSCATION AND OFFICIAL HARASSMENT HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE  
IN DELAYING OR COMPLETELY THWARTING SOME RECENT US-  
SOVIET MARRIAGES. TACTICS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY MORE  
RUTHLESS IF SOVIET MALE, RATHER THAN FEMALE, IS  
INVOLVED.

5. IF DEPARTMENT AND US DELEGATION IN GENEVA CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO  
INTRODUCE THE PRE-MARRIAGE FACTOR INTO THE TEXT AT THIS POINT,  
WE WOULD SUGGEST LANGUAGE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:  
BEGIN TEXT: IN ADDITION, THE PARTICIPATING STATES  
WILL EXAMINE FAVORABLY THE REQUEST OF ONE OF ITS  
CITIZENS TO MARRY A CITIZEN FROM ANOTHER PARTICIPATING  
STATE. THE PARTICIPATING STATES WILL ENSURE THAT SUCH  
COUPLES ARE ASSURED THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS TO MARRY IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CHOICE, AND THAT THEY WILL NOT  
BE SUBJECT TO HARASSMENT, DELAY OR ARBITRARY OBSTRUCTIVENESS.  
THE PARTICIPATING STATES WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT THE MARRIAGE  
REGISTRATION PROCESS IS BOTH OPEN AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO  
ALL POTENTIAL APPLICANTS. END TEXT.

6. WE REALIZE OF COURSE THAT ALL OF ABOVE MIGHT NOT BE  
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OBTAINABLE, BUT ANY REFERENCE TO RIGHT OF MIXED CITIZENSHIPS  
COUPLES TO MARRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH HOST-COUNTRY LAW WOULD  
BE HELPFUL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba2  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MOSCOW17999  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740346-0946  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974113/aaaaacem.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) GENEVA 7198, (B) MOSCOW 13208  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** powellba2  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <22 JUN 2005 by papenddr>; APPROVED <22 JUN 2005 by powellba2>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CSCE - HUMAN CONTACTS-MARRIAGE TEXT  
**TAGS:** CGEN, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005